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U.S. Patent Application No. 10/786,298
Attorney's Docket No. RIC03003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
 - cutting a trench in a surface of the roadway;
 - placing a duct in the trench;
 - placing a spacer within the trench on top of the duct;
 - filling the trench with a sealer;
 - placing a first cable within the duct;
 - pulling the first cable out of, and through, the duct; and
 - placing a second cable within the duct without removing the sealer within the trench.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first cable comprises utility cable.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first cable comprises optical fiber cable.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the trench is cut to a depth of approximately 3.5 to 4.0 inches beneath the surface of the roadway.
5. (Canceled)

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6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the duct comprises high density polyethylene (HDPE) duct.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the trench is cut to a width of approximately 0.5 inches.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[8]], wherein the spacer comprises a tubular shape.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein a diameter of the spacer is approximately 25% larger than a width of the trench.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
placing sand within the trench.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sealer comprises bitumen.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the sealer is heated to between approximately 325 and 375 degrees Fahrenheit before filling the trench.

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14-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of placing cable within concrete or asphalt, comprising:

 cutting a trench into the concrete or asphalt to a depth of approximately 3.5 to 4.0 inches from a surface of the concrete or asphalt;

 placing a tubular material having a hollow inner diameter within the trench;

placing a spacer on top of the tubular material, wherein the spacer comprises a water impermeable, heat resistant material;

 filling at least a portion of the trench with a sealer;

 placing a first cable within the tubular material;

 removing the first cable from the tubular material without removing the sealer from the trench; and

 placing a second cable within the tubular material without removing the sealer from the trench.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the first cable comprises fiber optic cable.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[25]] 23, wherein the spacer has an outer diameter that is approximately 25% greater than a width of the trench.

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27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the tubular material comprises high density polyethylene (HDPE).

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the tubular material comprises an outer diameter of approximately 0.5 inches and wherein the inner diameter comprises approximately 0.375 inches.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23 [[30]], wherein the sealer comprises bitumen heated to between 325 and 375 degrees Fahrenheit.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first cable is pulled out of, and through, the duct without removing the sealer within the trench.